

COMMENTS ON THE TAXONOMIC STATUS OF  
*TOMMOTIA* MISSARZHEVSKY 1970  
(TOMMOTIIDAE: MICROPROBLEMATICA)

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Missarzhevsky in Rozanov and Missarzhevsky (1966) established the genera *Camena* and *Camenella* for problematic microfossils of lower Cambrian age. The generic name *Camena* Missarzhevsky in Rozanov and Missarzhevsky 1966 was preoccupied by *Camena* Hewitson 1865 and subsequently Missarzhevsky (1970) proposed the replacement name *Tommotia* for the junior homonym. *Camena* Missarzhevsky in Rozanov and Missarzhevsky had been made the type-genus of the family Camenidae by Missarzhevsky in Rozanov et al. (1969).

Bengtson (1970) pointed out that *Tommotia* and *Camenella* were congeneric, representing separate parts of the same organism. Bengtson (1970) corrected the family name from Camenidae to Tommotiidae based on the new name *Tommotia*, citing authorship to Missarzhevsky 1970. Bengtson (1970:369-370) commented, "Since *Tommotia* is the replacement name for the type-genus of a family, it will—contrary to what is normally the case—take the date of the name replaced, *Camena* (article 39 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature), and thus be able to compete in priority with *Camenella*, . . . Accordingly, the generic name *Tommotia*, because of its status as type-genus for the family, is here selected as the valid name for the combined genera." However, ICZN article 39 only indicates that the family name Camenidae is invalid because of the junior homonym status of its type-genus, *Camena*. Further, ICZN article 60(b) indicates that *Tommotia* must compete with *Camenella* with its 1970 date rather than the date of the name it replaced, 1966. Regardless of the fact that *Tommotia* is the replacement name for the type-genus it is a junior subjective synonym of *Camenella* and must be treated as such by all who recognize the synonymy. (ICZN article 60).

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